

Marienville Volunteer Fire Company began in 1892 at the home of Dan Moriarty as a small group of men with a wagon, a pump, and a determination to keep their community safe.

In 1902, a great fire ripped through the area, destroying a substantial section of Marienville. In response, the company came together to raise money for better equipment, and soon became a well-organized department with official uniforms, its first fire truck, and a firehouse on North Forest Street.

As the team grew, a new building was built on North Forest Street that still houses the company today. Today there are about 40 active members under the direction of President Randall Parrett and Fire Chief Greg Geyer.

As a state-certified firefighter, EMT, and rescue technician myself, I know these firefighters are always ready to answer the call.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly congratulate the Marienville Volunteer Fire Company on this outstanding milestone, and I thank each member of the company for their service.

HONORING RAMON ANIBAL RAMOS, A TRUE LEADER

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ramon Anibal Ramos, a leading communicator and television producer born in Ingenio Angelina, San Pedro de Macoris, in the Dominican Republic.

Ramon has had a long and successful career. Ramon obtained his passport through the “‘Fiesta’ de Tele Antillas” program. His show, the “Ramon Anibal Show,” is focused on the dissemination of positive news, positive stories about people, particularly immigrants that have excelled in America, and particularly in New York.

Throughout all of this time, particularly during the negative anti-immigrant rhetoric that is going on right now, including this week’s push to build a divisive border wall, Ramon Anibal is the embodiment of being an immigrant, a pioneer, and successful contributor to our community.

Thank you, Ramon, for being such a role model and leader in our community.

Ramon Anibal Ramos, “the best of cable,” “lo mejor del cable.”

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF JUDGE FRED A. STINE

(Mr. MASSIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the retirement of Judge Fred A. Stine, the Chief Circuit Court Judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit in Campbell County, Kentucky.

Judge Stine graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1973, and re-

ceived his J.D. from the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University in 1978. He then worked in private practice for 2 years until his appointment as the Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Judge Stine has honorably served the Commonwealth as circuit court judge since 2005. He has many awards, which include a Distinguished Service Recognition from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and a Special Recognition for Victims’ Rights from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Throughout his career and despite his heavy case docket, Judge Stine selflessly gave his time to serve his community. Judge Stine is a true public servant who has served his State and Nation well.

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and all of the citizens of the Fourth District, I am honored to wish Judge Fred A. Stine the very best in his retirement. Thank you from us all.

BORDER WALL FUNDING IN MINIBUS PACKAGE

(Mr. SOTO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, recall President Trump’s promise on the campaign trail: we will build a wall and have Mexico pay for it.

Not only is it costly and unnecessary, but it will do more to divide America than it will to keep us safe. First, taking the fact that Mexico is not paying for it, nor would anybody in their right mind think that Mexico was ever going to pay for it, now he is asking for \$1.6 billion of Americans’ hard-working taxpayers to pay for it.

We already have 650 miles of border fencing, but representing the Sunshine State, with over 1,000 miles of coastline, this isn’t going to make us safer. It is not going to help us at all. And then you look to how there are racial undertones to this.

Notice how there is a focus on the Southern border, but not the Northern border?

While I would not support that, we can’t help but notice that this is focused on dividing America on racial lines, on making us less safe and on wasting taxpayer dollars.

It is time to unite America. It is time to look forward to a safer America, and spend our money on the Coast Guard, on custom border control, and other works that will make us safer.

REPEAL INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS’ CLASSIFICATION

(Mr. BIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, during my “Freedom Fridays” series, each week I highlight burdensome regulations that

limit American freedom. This week, my focus is on the Obama administration’s net neutrality policy.

The internet is one of the greatest innovations ever. This has largely been possible because of the Federal Government’s regulatory absence from the industry. Yet the Obama administration, in one of many cases of overregulation, took a radical step to inappropriately insert government interference.

In 2015, the FCC adopted a rule to reclassify internet service providers as “common carriers” under title II of the Communications Act of 1934. This reclassification caused undue burdens for American ISPs and consumers.

The Trump administration has been supportive of rolling back the Obama-era regulation. Now Congress needs to limit the authority of Federal bureaucrats and preserve a free and open internet. We should repeal the 2015 rule and prevent the FCC from issuing a similar rule.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in restoring internet freedom.

OPPOSE FUNDING FOR BORDER WALL

(Ms. MOORE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, Americans don’t want to pay a single dime of Federal money to pay for the President’s wall.

During the Presidential campaign, this was a very provocative claim, and he said Mexico would pay for it.

So why does the defense appropriations bill have a blank check for this wall?

I, like so many of my colleagues, including Republicans, know that this wall is unnecessary and environmentally catastrophic.

It will require us to seize property through eminent domain. It is ineffective, just like Homeland Security Secretary Kelly has said.

I urge my colleagues to oppose funding for this ill-gotten wall, to vote against the rule before us today, and begin to work on an honest conversation about the types of immigration reform that our country needs.

SUPPORT THE GENERAL AVIATION COMMUNITY

(Mr. ROKITA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I was disappointed last week to read about some criticizing the general aviation community as a “special interest group” that was trying to stand in the way of progress and modernization.

We are for modernization, as modernization has already taken off, and we have been partners from the very beginning. The fact of the matter is

that GA is not some special interest group. We are family, friends, and neighbors. There are doctors, teachers, community leaders, and, most importantly, small businessmen that rely on general aviation to create jobs.

They are just like, in fact, my son, Ryan, who is with us today, who absolutely loves aviation and wants to be a pilot when he grows up. And that is because he has been exposed to general aviation.

General aviation is an important part of our community and our economy. It employs 1.2 million people and adds \$219 billion, Mr. Speaker, of economic output.

So I ask my colleagues to side with general aviation on any bill that comes to the floor, like the one that came out of the Transportation Committee, and vote against such measures.

Moving a system where everyone is treated equally to a system where one user benefits over another is a bad idea and one that we should reject as anathema to American exceptionalism.

DEMOCRACY IS IN JEOPARDY

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Judiciary Committee brought before the House a motion of inquiry that was introduced to seek answers to some of the issues concerning the firing of James Comey and Attorney General Jeff Sessions' role therein.

Instead of passing that and dealing with issues that are fundamental to democracy and the respect our citizens may or may not have for its government, the Republicans put a substitute amendment in, raising all kinds of questions about Hillary Clinton.

They did everything but yell: "Lock her up."

It was a disgusting display of the majority taking advantage of the minority, squelching our voice, and taking the subject away from what is a serious issue concerning obstruction of justice and the potential obstruction of justice that could come about if there is an attempt to fire Mr. Mueller.

Instead, they concentrated on old harangues about Hillary Clinton. It was not a good day for democracy.

We need to be aware of the fact that our democracy is in jeopardy, and we need to be alert at every moment and try to find every answer.

□ 1230

CONGRATULATING CRITTENTON HOSPITAL ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. BISHOP of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and congratulate Crittenton Hospital as we commemorate its 50th anniversary in the Rochester, Michigan, community.

Over the past 50 years, Crittenton Hospital has faithfully dedicated itself to serving the Rochester area community and all of its citizens. Since opening its doors in 1967, Crittenton Hospital has expanded to meet the needs of a growing community while keeping pace with advances in healthcare technology and modern approaches to medicine.

The longevity enjoyed by Crittenton Hospital is a testament to its unique and enduring impact on our community. Its dedication to our residents ensures that Crittenton Hospital will continue to serve and care for patients for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Crittenton Hospital's 50th anniversary. I thank Crittenton Hospital for its commitment to the people it serves and to our entire Rochester area community.

HIGH-SKILLED IMMIGRANT WORKERS

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, more than 700,000 high-skilled immigrant workers from India are in the United States today on temporary work visas. These people are working hard every day helping grow our economy and raising their children as Americans right here in our communities.

But under our legal immigration system, they are essentially here as indentured servants, stuck in a cycle of temporary work visas, unable to change jobs or even start their own businesses to create more American jobs. They are stuck because of the arbitrary 7-percent-per-nation cap on employment-based green cards.

Now there is a mother in Greenland whose unborn child will be able to obtain permanent residence in America before someone from India who has already been working here for years. That is absurd, and it is wrong.

My bill, called the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act, would fix this problem. It would transition us to a first come, first served, merit-based legal immigration system. It would help these people in need, and it would help create new jobs.

Mr. Speaker, with more than 230 cosponsors, it is time to pass this bill and get this done.

THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO JUSTICE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, one of my predecessors set the standard for service to this Nation, among many, certainly—the Honorable Mickey Leland and Craig Washington—but the Honorable Barbara Jordan served on the Judiciary Committee. It was her

standard during the Watergate impeachment hearings that set the Nation afire about the relevancy of the people's right to justice.

That is why I hold this Constitution in hand and rise to the floor today to express my concern of the issues surrounding the Attorney General and the potential firing of the special counsel, Mr. Mueller.

This book that has the Constitution in it guarantees three equal branches of government. There is an orderliness to the responsibilities of the Executive and of the United States Congress. We have oversight.

The people want answers regarding Russian collusion and the steering of the election to one person over the other. Yes, they want jobs and opportunities, but we have the opportunity—or the responsibility—to clean our kitchen up.

I am very concerned about any executive, any Commander in Chief, who would suggest, in violation of the Constitution, that they would fire the Attorney General and then have the opportunity to ensure that the special counsel was fired in contravention of the American people's desires.

That is why I have introduced H. Res. 474, to cause this Congress to disapprove of any firing of the special counsel and reckless pardons of those who are under investigation.

THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

(Mr. MCCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, this administration was elected to drain the swamp, and one of the muckiest parts is the Export-Import Bank that makes taxpayer-guaranteed loans to foreign companies that buy American products, often to use in competition with American companies that get no such advantage.

Now, when politicians are picking winners and losers in the shadows, it shouldn't surprise us that we find a particularly nasty breeding ground for corruption.

We can debate the merits of the Ex-Im Bank, but one thing is undeniable: it is an agency that needs a taxpayer watchdog on its board and not just another lapdog for crony capitalists seeking to fleece the taxpayer.

Scott Garrett is a watchdog. He has sounded the alarm on the Ex-Im's more questionable loans, and his leadership on its board would restore credibility to its decisions.

The bank's supporters should welcome an independent voice that could restore its reputation, and the President should insist on it.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3219, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I